

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9944

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: OPERATION SEAM: INITIAL SEIZURES

1. SEAM (THE SPECIAL CAMPAIGN IN THE CULIACAN AREA) GOT UNDER-
WAY JANUARY 26 AND, WHILE OF COURSE IT IS TOO SOON TO ASSESS THE
OPERATION BASED ON VERY EARLY AND FRAGMENTARY REPORTS, THERE WERE
SOME ENCOURAGING INITIAL RESULTS SCORED BY INTERDICTION PHASE OF
PROGRAM. THESE INCLUDED 8 KG. OF OPIUM SEIZED JANUARY 26; ONE
MILLION AMPHETAMINE TABLETS SEIZED JANUARY 27; 3.5 TONS OF
MARIJUANA SEIZED JANUARY 29; 3.5 KG. HEROIN SEIZED JANUARY 29;
5.5 KG. OF OPIUM SEIZED JANUARY 30; AND 150 KG. OF PACKAGED
MARIJUANA SEIZED FEBRUARY 1-2.

2. IN MOST IMPRESSIVE SEAM ACTION TO DATE, MEXICAN FEDERAL AGENTS
UNDER PERSONAL COMMAND OF COMANDANTE DIAZ LAREDO RAIDED THE
INFAMOUS TIERRA BLANCA AREA OF CULIACAN ON FEBRUARY 4 AND SEIZED
BETWEEN 5 AND 6 KG. OF HEROIN AND 3 KG. OF OPIUM. SEVENTEEN
PERSONS WERE ARRESTED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GOM IS ALSO CLAIMING A
HEROIN LABORATORY SEIZED IN THIS OPERATION.

3. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE PERSONS ARRESTED
INCLUDED MAJOR TRAFFICKERS OR WHAT THE INTELLIGENCE OUTGROWTH OF
THIS OPERATION MAY BE. WHAT IS IMPORTANT, BESIDES SIZABLE
QUANTITY OF NARCOTICS AND LABORATORY SEIZED, IS THAT RAID WAS
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MADE IN TIERRA BLANCA, WHICH IS MOST NOTORIOUS STRONGHOLD OF

HEROIN TRAFFIC IN MEXICO AND INTO WHICH LOCAL POLICE DO NOT DARE
PENETRATE, EITHER FROM FEAR OR DUE TO PAYOFFS. THIS RAID SHOULD
CAUSE CULIACAN TRAFFICKERS TO FEEL LESS COMPLACENT AND SERVE
NOTICE THAT GOM MEANS BUSINESS. IT IS OF COURSE TOO SOON TO
PREDICT WHAT FALLOUT OF THIS RAID WILL BE, AND WHETHER IT WILL
AFFECT MAJOR TRAFFICKERS IN CULIACAN AREA. IT DOES SEEM TO BE A
GOOD BEGINNING TO SPECIAL CULIACAN OPERATION DESPITE DELAYS IN
ARRIVAL U.S. INPUT IN MEN AND EQUIPMENT, ESPECIALLY HELICOPTERS.
JOVA

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